

is to treat new varieties of seeds that may develop blemishes so that we may send them out clean to the farmers and not polluted as has been the case during the past few years. Many farmers are complaining that with their scanty facilities they cannot take care of the wheat we send them if it has blemish. We should be able when we have this laboratory in operation to send the seed out in a state of purity, free from disease. We anticipate in the near future to have developed completely—I do not know how many years it will take, but we are working towards it—a rust-resisting wheat. Should we attain that with all the necessary qualifications as to purity, quality, early maturing and prolific power and then find it has some blemish, it is very necessary that we should be able to offset that by whatever treatment is required before we send it out to the farmers. When we get these facilities, it will be incumbent upon the department to supply all the farmers who carry out the experiments, with one bushel of clean wheat.

A similar service should be supplied to adjoining provinces as soon as they are ready to cooperate with the department in that respect. It has always been my intention that it should be so. This vote provides for only one cleaning plant, however, as there is only one organization ready to make use of the service at the present time.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Will the minister state that he will agree, when the other provinces are ready, to make a grant on the same basis to the other two provinces?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Yes, just as soon as they are ready, we are ready. We will not even wait until they organize as has been done in Saskatchewan. We will be ready to cooperate with the Alberta Department of Agriculture with whom we have had some correspondence.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Has the department not already got in touch with the minister in this matter?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Yes. As I understand the arrangement, the Department of Agriculture in Alberta administered the seed plant themselves, but owing to the expense of the business and the owner requiring the plant for himself for some purpose, they are deprived of those facilities. They are trying to meet the situation the best way they can, but even if they do not organize a cooperative registered seed growers' association such as they have in Saskatchewan, we will be prepared to deal in the same way with the de-

[Mr. Motherwell.]

partments of agriculture of the two adjoining provinces for the purpose of giving them the same kind of service. It is felt by a good many that these seed cleaning institutions should not invade the domain of the private seed merchants by handling poultry supplies, bee supplies and artificial fertilizers which cannot be properly considered to belong to a seed cleaning plant, and I am prepared to state that those reservations will be inserted in the lease.

Mr. ROWE: I think the Minister of Agriculture has skated around the whole question and absolutely evaded giving an answer. How much rent is it proposed to ask from the registered seed growers' cooperative association of Alberta? Here you have a \$150,000 grant—

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Might I disabuse my hon. friend's mind of the idea that this is a grant? It is the cost of the additions to the government's seed cleaning plant that we require for our own service. It will have a capacity of 100,000 bushels, and we are leasing the balance to the registered seed growers' association of Saskatchewan. The ownership is in the government and the site continues in possession of the government. If we cannot make a satisfactory lease with the registered seed growers' association, the department may have to operate the plant. With regard to the lease, we have not prepared any draft yet except in a tentative way such as I have outlined. I think that there should be reservations in the lease that this cooperative seed growers' association, whose purpose is to handle their own goods largely, should not engage in selling merchandise such as that to which I have referred. In spite of these restrictions there will be a regular cash rental—

Mr. ROWE: How much?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: We have not worked that out for the very good reason that we do not know if it be worth anything to them this year, because of the lateness in starting construction, and consequently they may have to store some of their grain in some other building and transfer it later. The building season out there for concrete work is very short. The rental for the first year, in my estimation, should be quite small, and after that I think it should be on a graduated scale, starting with say three or four per cent and going up to five per cent or whatever rate government money is worth, and then stop-